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2020

### Guide to the Theodore Charles Stone Collection

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## CENTER FOR BLACK MUSIC RESEARCH COLLECTION

### The Theodore Charles Stone Collection, 1915-2001

#### **EXTENT**

101 boxes, 45.2 linear feet

#### **COLLECTION SUMMARY**

Theodore Charles Stone (1912–1998) was a Chicago-based opera singer and journalist who served as president of both the National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association. The Theodore Charles Stone papers span from 1915–2001 and provide insight into the African American operatic music scene throughout the 20th century.

#### **PROCESSING INFORMATION**

Processed by CLIR funded Black Metropolis Research Consortium "Color Curtain Processing Project." By T.J. Szafranski and Dominique Fuqua, October 18th, 2012.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Theodore Charles Stone (1912–1998) was a Chicago-based performer and journalist who worked with the National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association to provide opportunities for African American musicians to perform. Stone was born on November 18, 1912 in Gainesville, Texas, and attended Samuel Huston College in Houston, Texas, before relocating to Chicago to attend the Chicago Musical College. Following this, Stone was awarded a scholarship to the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland, and as the first African American to study there, he earned a certificate in Performing Arts and Opera, Concert Repertoire. Stone spent much of the 1940s and 1950s giving recitals across the United States before beginning a career as a music journalist. He wrote for the Chicago Bee, the Pittsburgh Courier, the Chicago Defender, the Metropolitan Post, and the Chicago Crusader. Stone served as president of the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) from 1968–1975, and as president of the Chicago Music Association, the first branch of the NANM, from 1954–1996.

#### **SCOPE & CONTENT/COLLECTION DESCRIPTION**

The Theodore Charles Stone Collection includes programs, flyers, invitations to concerts and performances, subject and research files on musicians and organizations, funeral programs and obituaries for Chicago musicians, articles written by Stone, material originating from the National Association of Negro Musicians and the Chicago Music Association, photographs, publications, and sheet music. Of particular interest is the minutes book used to record meetings by the Chicago Music Association from 1936–1940, with other materials inserted, dated from 1932–1943.

## ARRANGEMENT

The papers are arranged into six series:

1. Theodore Charles Stone Personal Papers  
This series relates to Stone's musical interests as a performer, organizer, and journalist.  
  
Subseries:
  - a. Correspondence
  - b. Writings
  - c. Theodore Charles Stone Performances
  - d. Subject Files
  - e. Programs
  - f. Media Publications
2. National Association of Negro Musicians  
Contains documents regarding NANM, arranged by type of material
3. Chicago Music Association  
Arranged by type of material.
4. Photographs  
Photographs depicting Stone's personal life, performances, and National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association events. Also, photographs of other musicians and friends are included, arranged alphabetically. Scrapbooks, which include photographs and newspaper clippings, are also present.
5. Sheet Music  
Contains Stone's personal collection of sheet music arranged by composer and/or type.
6. Realia  
This series contains plaques and awards Stone received from the National Association of Negro Musicians, the Chicago Music Association, and other organizations.

## RELATED MATERIALS

- Collection of Materials on the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM)
- R. Nathaniel Dett Club of Music and Allied Arts
- National Association of Negro Musicians – records from 1919-present
- Eileen Southern Collection. Research materials on Nora Douglas Holt, other founders of NANM.
- Helen Walker-Hill Collection. Research materials on Nora Douglas Holt, including photocopies of *Music and Poetry*.

### *External Collections:*

- [Theodore Charles Stone Collection](#), Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL
- [Sydonia Brooks Collection/National Association of Negro Musicians Papers](#), Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL

**ACQUISITION SOURCE**

Donated by Theodore Charles Stone in 1997, with additional accruals donated by Barbara Wright-Pryor, in 1998, 2001, and 2013.

**SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Stone, Theodore Charles, National Association of Negro Musicians (U.S.), Chicago Music Association, Chicago Crusader, Chicago Bee, Chicago Defender, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Opera singers

**ACCESS STATEMENT**

The collection is open and available for research use.

**RIGHTS STATEMENT**

United States copyright laws apply to the materials in this collection.

**PREFERRED CITATION**

The Theodore Charles Stone Collection, Center for Black Music Research Collection, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

**Theodore Charles Stone Collection Container List:****Series I: Theodore Charles Stone Personal Papers, 1915–1998**

The bulk of material throughout this series relates to Stone's musical interests as a performer, organizer, and journalist. This series is arranged into six subseries, "Correspondence," "Writings," "Theodore Charles Stone Performances," "Subject Files," "Programs," and "Media Publications."

**Subseries 1: Correspondence, 1937–1997**

"Correspondence" contains personal and professional letters regarding Stone's musical and journalistic career, his involvement in Chicago's African American operatic and musical community, and his interest in national and local music associations. This subseries is arranged chronologically.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1-6	1-143	Correspondence	1937–1997

**Subseries 2: Writings, 1969-1994**

"Writings" includes copies of Stone's column, "World of Music" from the Chicago *Crusader*, drafts of his articles and reviews, handwritten notes, and name files, which contain directories, registration lists, and mailing addresses. This subseries is arranged by type of material.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
7	144-146	Chicago <i>Crusader</i> Column, "World of Music"	1969-1994
	147-157	Drafts of articles and reviews	Undated
8	158-164	Handwritten notes	Undated
9	165-176	Name files	Undated

**Subseries 3: Theodore Charles Stone Performances, 1944-1995**

This subseries includes flyers and programs from events that featured Stone as a performer, and is arranged chronologically.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
10	177-181	Stone Performances	1944-1995
100	2348	Concert program, "The Ordering of Moses," Dunbar HS	1961

**Subseries 4: Subject Files, circa 1960-1994**

"Subject Files" includes material from organizations and documents regarding specific individuals. The subseries is ordered by type of file, and arranged alphabetically. "Organizations" files include clippings and articles pertaining to musical, business, and political organizations. "People" files include publicity and research concerning individuals, most of whom were musicians. "Obituaries" are primarily those of local Chicago musicians and public figures. "Religious" files include material from religious organizations.

Box	Folder	Title
10	182	Organizations (A-B)
	183-184	Organizations (C)
	185	Organizations (D-F)
11	186	Organizations (G-K)
	187	Organizations (L-M)
		<b>Subseries 4: Subject Files, circa 1960-1994, continued</b>
	188	Organizations (N)
	189	Organizations (O)
	190	Organizations (O-S)
	191	Organizations (S-Z)
12	192	People (A-B)
	193	People (C-D)
	194	People (E-F)

13	195	People (G-I)
	196	People (J-L)
	197	People (M-O)
	198	People (P-R)
	199	People (S-T)
14	200	People (U-Z and collections)
	201	Obituaries (A)
	202	Obituaries (B)
	203-204	Obituaries (C)
	205	Obituaries (D)
	206	Obituaries (E)
	207	Obituaries (F)
	208	Obituaries (G)
	209	Obituaries (H-I)
	210	Obituaries (J)
15	211	Obituaries (K)
	212	Obituaries (L)
	213-215	Obituaries (M)
	216	Obituaries (N-O)
	217	Obituaries (P)
	218	Obituaries (R)
	219	Obituaries (S)
	220	Obituaries (T)
	221	Obituaries (U)
	222-223	Obituaries (W)
16	224	Obituaries (W-Z)
	225-228	Religious (A-B)
	229-236	Religious (C-E)
	237-244	Religious (F-G)
	245-253	Religious (H-M)
17	254-260	Religious (N-S)
18	261-267	Religious (S-V)
19	268-271	Religious (W-Z and unnamed)

#### **Subseries 5: Concerts and Programs, 1961-1998**

This subseries contains flyers, programs, and invitations from events and performances. It includes documents from individual concert venues, such as Grant Park and Ravinia, and from individual performing acts, such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera of Chicago. This material is arranged alphabetically by the name of the venue or group. Other musical material from various venues and performers, and material from non-musical events is arranged chronologically.

#### **Subseries 5: Concerts and Programs, 1961-1998**

Box	Folder	Title	Date
22	272	Allied Arts Association	1983-1991
	273	Chicago Children's Choir	1979-1987
	274-277	Chicago Sinfonietta	1987-1998
	278-280	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	1961-1979
	281-286	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	1980-1998
23	287-288	Chicago Umbrian Glee Club	1973-1996
24	289	Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra	1989-1995
	290	Grant Park Concerts	1970-1995
	291-292	Lyric Opera of Chicago	1961-1980
	293-298	Lyric Opera of Chicago	1981-1997
25	299	Lyric Opera of Chicago	Undated
26	300	Orchestra of Illinois	1978-1986
	301-305	Ravinia	1974-1993

27	306-307	Ravinia	1994-1997
	308-312	Universities and Workshops	Undated
28	313-318	Stagebill	1971-1989
29	319-322	Stagebill	1990-1996
30	323-339	Programs	1925-1974
100	2349	Program—concert by Robert McKenzie Chorus	1961
31	340-351	Programs	1974-1978
32	352-366	Programs	1978-1982
33	367-380	Programs	1982-1985
34	381-391	Programs	1986-1988
35	392-403	Programs	1988-1991
36	404-415	Programs	1991-1993
37	416-427	Programs	1994-1998
38	428-440	Programs	Undated
39	441-447	Seasonal Programs	1967-1987
40	448-450	Seasonal Programs	1988-1996
41	451-459	Non-music Programs	1950-1976
42	460-469	Non-music Programs	1977-1983
43	470-478	Non-music Programs	1984-1990
44	479-486	Non-music Programs	1990-1998
45	487-489	Non-music Programs	Undated

#### **Subseries 6: Media Publications, 1934-1997**

“Media Publications” includes journal articles, newsletters, press releases, magazine articles, and newspaper clippings that reflect Theodore Charles Stone’s musical interests and involvement with different music festivals, operas, and symphonies in Chicago.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
46	490-491	Chicago Music Alliance	1986-1997
	492	Chicago Opera Theater	1990-1995
	493	Chicago Sinfonietta	1989-1996
	494-498	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	1984-1997
		<b>Subseries 6: Media Publications, 1934-1997, continued</b>	
	499-501	Lyric Opera of Chicago	1987-1997
	502-504	Ravinia	1984-1992
47	505-506	Ravinia	1993-1996
	507-524	Publications	1934-1977
48	525-545	Publications	1977-1984
49	546-562	Publications	1984-1987
50	563-583	Publications	1988-1991
51	584-603	Publications	1992-1996
52	604-623	Publications	1996-1997
53	624-639	Publications	Undated
54	640-647	Publications	Undated
97	2338-2344	Oversized Publications	Undated

#### **Subseries 7: Personal, 1915-1916, 1961, 1980-1998, and undated**

“Personal” includes biographical information, travel brochures, educational material, poems, quotes, song sheets, historical publications, solicitations, order forms, membership cards, personal and financial documents.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
55-56	648-661	Personal	Undated
100	2350-2351	Small publications published by Ford S. Black (2): <i>Colored People’s Guide Book for Chicago</i> and <i>Black’s</i>	1915-1916

		<i>Blue Book 1917: Directory of Chicago's Active Colored People and Guide to Their Activities.</i>	
	2352	Honorary doctorate, McKinley Theological Seminary	1980
	2353	Griffin Funeral Home papers	1997–1998
99		<i>The Chicago Crusader</i> , complete issue, 6/10/1961. Oversized.	1961

## **Series II: National Association of Negro Musicians, 1921–1997**

The National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) was founded in Chicago in 1919 to advance the education and careers of African-American musicians. Since its inception, the NANM has sponsored scholarship contests for performers. The NANM has regional branches across the United States, as well as local and student chapters. Annual conferences are held each summer in a major city. This series contains documents regarding the NANM's founding, correspondence, meetings reports, conventions programs, and membership and financial records. This series is arranged by type of material.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
57	662	Articles of Incorporation	1968
	663	History	1929–1984
100	2354	History – Holt, Hutchison	1921, 1929
57	664	Handbook/Manuals	1961–1980
	665	Constitutions	Undated
	666-677	Memos/Correspondence	1948–1974
58	678-695	Memos/Correspondence	1974–1997
59	696-713	Newsletters	1957–1996
60	714-729	Annual Conventions	1955–1997
100	2355	Annual Conventions: typescript of address by TCS	1969
<b>Series II: National Association of Negro Musicians, 1921–1997, continued</b>			
60	730	Mid Winter Board Meetings	1960–1975
61	731-737	Central Region Conferences	1968–1995
	738	Branch Reports	1970–1991
	739-742	Reports from Directors of Branches	1972–1997
	743-745	Reports of the Central Region	1969–1991
62	746-749	Reports of the Eastern Region	1973–1997
	750	Reports of the Southern Region	1973–1983
	751	Reports of the Western Region	1971–1989
	752-756	Financial/Membership Records	1956–1996
	757-759	Scholarship Papers	1972–1995
63	760-771	Concerts/Events	1941–1994
	772-773	Convention Programs	1939–1971
64	774-779	Convention Programs	1972–1997

## **Series III: Chicago Music Association, 1932–2001**

The Chicago Music Association (CMA) was founded in 1919 to provide performance opportunities for classically trained African American musicians. The CMA and a group of musicians from Washington, D. C. formed the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM), with CMA becoming its first branch. This series contains correspondence, administrative records, newsletters, membership information, financial documents, and material from concerts and events put on by the CMA. This series is arranged by type of material.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
65	780	History	
	781-821	Correspondence and Administrative Documents	1945-1990
66	822-828	Correspondence and Administrative Documents	1991-1996
100	2356	Correspondence – Nora Holt to TCS	1969
	2357	Flyer: CMA Tribute Committee	Undated



66	829-854	Newsletters	1956-1997
	855-859	Concerts/Events	1942-1978
67	860-869	Concerts/Events	1979-2001
	870-875	Members	Undated
	876	Financial Documents	1960-1993
101	1 volume	Minutes book, 292 numbered pages	1936-1940?
101	2361-2370	Materials laid in to Minutes book, removed	1932-1943 and undated
101	2371	Notes on bookmarks, with page references, by Barbara Wright-Pryor	Undated

#### **Series IV: Photographs, circa 1932-1997 and undated**

Photographs in this series depict Stone's personal life, performances, and National Association of Negro Musicians and Chicago Music Association events. Photographs of other musicians and friends are included and are arranged alphabetically. Also included in this series are scrapbooks, which include photographs and newspaper clippings.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
68-70	877-1224	Theodore Charles Stone	
100	2358	Theodore Charles Stone: modeling career	1960s
100	2359	Theodore Charles Stone: musical career	1932-1996
<b>Series IV: Photographs, circa 1932-1997 and undated, continued</b>			
71	1225-1303	Others (A-B)	
72	1304-1384	Others (C-E)	
73	1385-1499	Others (F-J)	
74	1500-1599	Others (K-O)	
75	1600-1676	Others (P-R)	
76	1677-1755	Others (S-Z)	
77	1756-1836	National Association of Negro Musicians	
78	1837-1884	Chicago Music Association	
100	2360	Chicago Music Association: Billups, President	1975
100	2360	Chicago Music Association: group photo	1997
79-81	1885-1916	Unidentified	
82	N/A	Albums	
83	N/A	Scrapbooks	
99	N/A	Oversized Photos	
Poster file	N/A	National Association of Negro Musicians Photograph	

#### **Series V: Sheet Music, undated**

This series contains Stone's personal collection of sheet music.

Box	Folder	Title
84-86	1917-2131	Sheet music arranged by composer
87-93	2132-2328	Sheet music – unidentified
94-96	2329-2337	Sheet music compilations – unidentified
97	2345-2347	Oversized sheet music - unidentified

#### **Series VI: Realia, undated**

This series contains plaques and awards that Stone received from the National Association of Negro Musicians, the Chicago Music Association, and other organizations.

Box	Folder	Title
98	N/A	Realia